

Richards - Angland Family

June Hall, leader of the Society's Oral History group, has prepared this wonderful story as told to her by Ida Brown (nee Angland). Ida's story again highlights the wonderful years many children had growing up in the Greensborough district. As Ida says "*I had a beautiful childhood, I was blissfully unaware of the family problems, financial or other*".

My grandfather, John Henry Richards, born in Cornwell came to Australia in late 1800's, he was taken to Tasmania because he was a stow away, he was 18 years old. He worked on the apple orchards and later became a lorry driver delivering apples, he was there for approx 5 years then came to Victoria, I have no idea why or how this came about. His parents were Simon and Mary (Best) Richards.

When he arrived in Victoria he met my grandmother Louisa Woods under unusual circumstances in South Melbourne. Her parents, William and Janette (Wishart) Woods, had migrated from Scotland. When John first met Louisa he said; I'm going to marry you and he did.

When they were married they went up to Kangaroo Ground, they lived in a little old shack and that is where they started their family. I don't know how many children were born there. After a while they came down to Greensborough, land must have been available because they bought a large block in Williams Street. It ran from where we lived down to Hawkins Paddock.

My grandfather divided the land into three blocks. On the block there were yellow box trees, and he proceeded to cut down some of the trees. The stumps from those trees became the stumps for his house, he built the house on top of the stumps. I used to play under the house amongst those stumps. He built a four roomed house, when it became too small for the family he built another big room on the back. Grandfather lived on the first block, Uncle Jack (married Florence Mills) had the second block and Uncle George the third block.

Their children, three boys and my mother Lillian Louisa Richards, grew up and married here. Unfortunately Walter one of their sons died; he fell into a bon fire and was badly burned. My mother was married twice, her first marriage was to James Ernest Holt they had two daughters Lillian b1916 and Louise b1920, they were my half sisters. James died after being kicked in the head by a horse when Lillian was four years old.

My mother was married again to John Angland my father; she was in service at a boarding house in South Melbourne when she met him. My brother Ted was born; he had brain damage as a result of a delayed birth and was lucky to be alive. I was born three years later in Carlton, I was three weeks old when the marriage broke down. Mum was alone with four children, this was when she came to Greensborough to live with my grandmother.

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other, I had doting cousins and uncles, being the youngest and with no father, I was totally spoilt. Nothing I could do was wrong (I think the same about myself today).

I went to school at Greensborough State School No. 2062, the best school in the world. At age seven, I can still remember my first day at school and Miss Ladd coming up to me and telling me what beautiful hair I had, I had it in "Shirley Temple" curls which Louise used to do for me. I had four girl friends that I did everything with, they were Ruth Heavens, Margaret and Cath Roberts who were cousins, we went to primary school together and remained friends through our teenage years and kept in touch after we were married.

We had Iredales near us, where the Catholic Church is now, they were cousins to the Iredales in Henry Street. I loved Mrs Cordner, when we couldn't meet in the hall for bible study, she would have us at her house, she had this enormous couch, six of us could sit on it, in a large room, with photos of the boys on the mantelpiece.

I didn't know until much later, when my family had no money and were down and out, Mrs Cordner used to bring us food and clothing, she was a wonderful lady.

June (Evans) Hall
2011